

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing and favorable examination of the subject application on the merits is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, the specification and Claim 11 have been amended to correct a minor typographical error in the deposit number of the strain *Lactobacillus plantarum* LB931. The correct deposit number is listed on the attached copy of the deposit receipt and is correctly referenced in applications SE9703669-3, SE9502588-8, WO92/13577, SE9801951-6, SE9804390-4, and SE9902207-1. These documents have all been cited in the present application on page 1. SE9902207-1 is further cited as a priority document on the cover sheet of the present application. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 15, 2002

**Attachment to Supplemental Preliminary Amendment dated January 15, 2002**

**Marked-up Copy**

Paragraph Beginning on Page 4, Line 11

The active additive may, for instance, be a micro-organism. According to one preferred embodiment, the active additive is an acid producing micro-organism. According to a more preferred embodiment, the active substance consists of lactobacilli. In an even more preferred embodiment, the active additive consists of lactobacilli of the strain Lactobacillus plantarum LB 931 (deposition No. (DSM): [41918] 11918).

**Attachment to Supplemental Preliminary Amendment dated January 15, 2002**

**Marked-up Claim 11**

11. (Amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the active additive is a lactobacillus of the strain [lactobacillus] Lactobacillus plantarum LB 931 (DSM No. [41918] 11918).

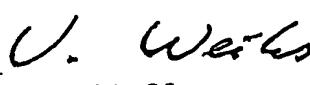
BUDAPEST TREATY ON THE INTERNATIONAL  
RECOGNITION OF THE DEPOSIT OF MICROORGANISMS  
FOR THE PURPOSES OF PATENT PROCEDURE

INTERNATIONAL FORM

ESSUM AB  
Glimmervägen 5E

S-90740 Umea

VIABILITY STATEMENT  
Issued pursuant to Rule 10.2 by the  
INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITORY AUTHORITY  
(Identified at the bottom of this page)

I. DEPOSITOR		II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE MICROORGANISM
Name: ESSUM AB Glimmervägen 5E Address: S-90740 Umea		Accession number given by the INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITORY AUTHORITY: <b>DSM 11918</b> Date of the deposit or the transfer: <b>1998-01-09</b>
III. VIABILITY STATEMENT		
The viability of the microorganism identified under II above was tested on <b>1998-01-09</b> . On that date, the said microorganism was <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> viable <input type="checkbox"/> no longer viable		
IV. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE VIABILITY TEST HAS BEEN PERFORMED <sup>1</sup>		
V. INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITORY AUTHORITY		
Name: DSMZ-DEUTSCHE SAMMLUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN UND ZELLKULTUREN GmbH Address: Mascheroder Weg 1b D-38124 Braunschweig		Signature(s) of person(s) having the power to represent the International Depository Authority or of authorized official(s):  Date: <b>1998-01-21</b>

<sup>1</sup> Indicate the date of original deposit or, where a new deposit or a transfer has been made, the most recent relevant date (date of the new deposit or date of the transfer).

<sup>2</sup> In the cases referred to in Rule 10.2(a) (ii) and (iii), refer to the most recent viability test.

<sup>3</sup> Mark with a cross the applicable box.

<sup>4</sup> Fill in if the information has been requested and if the results of the test were negative.